



09/771,299

#7

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: C-11

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C. 20231

On Nov. 7, 2002
By Katie Zarzana
Katie Zarzana

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

JAMES L. PACEK et al.

Application No.: 09/771,299

Filed: January 25, 2001

For: **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
ELECTROSURGICAL DISSECTION AND
HARVESTING OF TISSUE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Examiner:

Art Unit: 3739

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

NOV 18 2002

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Sir:

Before substantive examination, please amend the subject application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace page 11 with the following:

Figs. 7 and 8 are side views of the electrode support of Fig. 7;

Figs. 9A-12A are side views of the individual wafer layers of the electrode support;

Figs. 9B-12B are cross-sectional views of the individual wafer layers;

Fig. 13 is a side view of an individual wafer layer;

Figs. 14 and 15 illustrate an alternative multi-layer wafer design according to the present invention;

Fig. 16 is a perspective view of an electrosurgical probe having an elongated, blade-like active electrode;

Fig. 17A-17C are cross-sectional views of the distal portions of three different embodiments of an electrosurgical probe according to the present invention;

Fig. 18 illustrates an electrosurgical probe with a 90° distal bend and a lateral fluid lumen;

Fig. 19 illustrates an electrosurgical system with a separate fluid delivery instrument according to the present invention;

Figs. 20A and 20B are cross-sectional and end views, respectively, of yet another electrosurgical probe incorporating flattened active electrodes;

Fig. 21 is a detailed end view of an electrosurgical probe having an elongate, linear array of active electrodes suitable for use in surgical cutting;

Fig. 22 is a detailed view of a single active electrode having a flattened end at its distal tip;

Fig. 23 is a detailed view of a single active electrode having a pointed end at its distal tip;

Fig. 24 is a perspective view of the distal portion of another electrosurgical probe according to the present invention;

Fig. 25 illustrates another embodiment of the probe of the present invention, specifically designed for creating incisions in external skin surfaces;

Fig. 26 is a perspective view of another embodiment of an electrosurgical probe for use in dermatology procedures;

Figs. 27A-27C are exploded, isometric views of the probe of Fig. 26;

Fig. 28 is a cross-sectional view of another alternative electrosurgical probe;

Fig. 28 is a cross-sectional view of another alternative electrosurgical probe;

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (408) 736-0224.

Respectfully submitted,

Sanjay S. Bagade
Reg. No. 42,280



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Figs. 7 and 8 are side views of the electrode support of Fig. 7;

Figs. 9A-~~12A~~13A are side views of the individual wafer layers of the electrode support;

Figs. 9B-~~12B~~13B cross-sectional views of the individual wafer layers;

Fig. 13 is a side view of an individual wafer layer;

Figs. 14 and 15 illustrate an alternative multi-layer wafer design according to the present invention;

Fig. 16 is a perspective view of an electrosurgical probe having an elongated, blade-like active electrode;

Fig. 17A-17C are cross-sectional views of the distal portions of three different embodiments of an electrosurgical probe according to the present invention;

Fig. 18 illustrates an electrosurgical probe with a 90° distal bend and a lateral fluid lumen;

Fig. 19 illustrates an electrosurgical system with a separate fluid delivery instrument according to the present invention;

Figs. 20A and 20B are cross-sectional and end views, respectively, of yet another electrosurgical probe incorporating flattened active electrodes;

Fig. 21 is a detailed end view of an electrosurgical probe having an elongate, linear array of active electrodes suitable for use in surgical cutting;

Fig. 22 is a detailed view of a single active electrode having a flattened end at its distal tip;

Fig. 23 is a detailed view of a single active electrode having a pointed end at its distal tip;

Fig. 24 is a perspective view of the distal portion of another electrosurgical probe according to the present invention;

Fig. 25 illustrates another embodiment of the probe of the present invention, specifically designed for creating incisions in external skin surfaces;

Fig. 26 is a perspective view of another embodiment of an electrosurgical probe for use in dermatology procedures;

Figs. 27A-27C are exploded, isometric views of the probe of Fig. 26;

Fig. 28 is a cross-sectional view of another alternative electrosurgical probe;

Fig. 28 is a cross-sectional view of another alternative electrosurgical probe;